

REFER TO OSD

WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

MIDDLE EAST

EARLY AM

ARAB/ISRAELI SUMMARY

SYRIAN TROOP MOVEMENTS AND EGYPTIAN MILITARY EXERCISES TOOK PLACE DURING THE WEEK BUT ARE NOT DESIGNED TO LEAD TO MAJOR HOSTILITIES.

WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

DIA REVIEWED 25-Nov-2009: NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION

OSD REVIEWED 25 NOV 2009 NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION

SYRIA/ISRAEL: SYRIAN TROOP DISPOSITIONS IN THE GOLAN HEIGHTS ARE DEFENSE ORIENTED, STIMULATED IN PART BY FEARS OF AN ISRAELI ATTACK. TEL AVIV CONTINUES TO OBSERVE AREA DEVELOPMENTS AND SEES NO SYRIAN INTENTIONS TO INITIATE LARGE-SCALE HOSTILITIES. THE SYRIAN MOVEMENTS TO EMERGENCY-DEPLOYMENT AREAS BEGAN SEVERAL WEEKS AGO AND GAINED IMPETUS AFTER THE 13 SEPTEMBER AIR CLASH WITH ISRAELI JETS. THE REPORTED REPOSITIONING OF FORCES FROM THE SYRIAN-JORDANIAN BORDER AREA TO THE GOLAN HEIGHTS MAY ALSO BE AN ATTEMPT BY SYRIAN PRESIDENT ASAD TO SHOW JORDAN'S KING HUSSEIN THAT HE IS SINCERE IN HIS DESIRE TO STRENGTHEN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. A REPORT FROM DAMASCUS FOREIGN MINISTRY ANNOUNCED THAT DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH FRATERNAL JORDAN WILL BE RESUMED.

EGYPT: JOINT-SERVICE EXERCISES TAHRIR-41 AND HAMZA I ARE EXPECTED TO TERMINATE BY 8-10 OCTOBER. ALTHOUGH UNUSUAL IN SEVERAL ASPECTS, THERE ARE NO INDICATIONS THAT EGYPT INTENDS TO USE THIS ACTIVITY AS A PRELUDE TO HOSTILE OPERATIONS. TAHRIR-41, A STRATEGIC-MOBILIZATION EXERCISE, BEGAN ON 1 OCTOBER. TO DATE, COMMANDO, AIR FORCE, AND NAVAL PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN NOTED IN MOBILIZATION ACTIVITY. REGULAR ARMY AND AIR DEFENSE UNITS ARE PART OF THE SCENARIO, ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE EVIDENCE OF THE EXTENT OF THEIR MOBILIZATION. HAMZA I, PROBABLY A JOINT-SERVICE TACTICAL EXERCISE, HAS BEEN LIMITED PRIMARILY TO THE RED SEA AREA AND MAY BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE REDEPLOYMENT OF SEVERAL NAVAL COMBATANTS SOUTHWARD.

EGYPT/SYRIA: THE USSR APPEARS TO BE REDUCING ITS PRESENCE IN SYRIA AND EGYPT. AN AIRLIFT FROM DAMASCUS TO THE SOVIET UNION HAS BEEN IN PROGRESS SINCE 4 OCTOBER, AND SOME 1,000 DEPENDENTS OF SOVIET CIVILIAN TECHNICIANS HAVE RETURNED HOME FROM EGYPT. FIVE SOVIET IL-18/COOT TRANSPORTS FLEW BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND DAMASCUS ON 4 OCTOBER, AND AT LEAST SIX MORE COOT FLIGHTS AND TWO AN-22/COCK AIRCRAFT ARRIVED IN DAMASCUS ON THE 5TH. MEANWHILE, FIVE IL-62/CLASSICS AND SEVEN COOTS MADE ROUND TRIPS TO EGYPT, WITH ONE MORE CLASSIC AND ONE TU-154/CARELESS ARRIVING TODAY. TWO OF THESE SOVIET TRANSPORTS, WHICH USUALLY CARRY VIPs, MADE TWO OF THE ROUND TRIPS EACH TO CAIRO. ALTHOUGH THE AIRLIFT TO SYRIA COULD BE ASSOCIATED WITH ROTATING SOVIET ADVISERS AND/OR SYRIAN PERSONNEL TRAINING IN THE USSR, IT IS MORE LIKELY ASSOCIATED WITH A REDUCTION IN THE ESTIMATED 1,400 SOVIETS ADVISING THE SYRIAN ARMED FORCES. IF A WITHDRAWAL OF SOVIET TECHNICIANS IS IN PROGRESS, IT WAS PROBABLY INITIATED BY MOSCOW, AND MAY BE IN REACTION TO RECENTLY STRAINED USSR-SYRIAN RELATIONS. THE SOVIETS HAVE BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT THE MOVEMENT RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED ON THEIR ADVISERS, AND SYRIA HAS COMPLAINED ABOUT INFERIOR SOVIET EQUIPMENT AND REPORTEDLY ABOUT THEIR UNWILLINGNESS TO ASSIST DURING THE 13 SEPTEMBER SYRIAN-ISRAELI AIR ENGAGEMENT. MOST OF THE AIRLIFT TO EGYPT IS PROBABLY BEING USED TO FLY SOVIET DEPENDENTS HOME. THE MOVEMENT OF DEPENDENTS OF CIVILIAN TECHNICIANS BEGAN ON 3 OCTOBER, AND ABOUT 1,000 HAD LEFT THE COUNTRY BY YESTERDAY. OFFICIAL ISRAELI SOURCES CONFIRM THAT SOVIET PERSONNEL ARE BEING TRANSPORTED OUT OF EGYPT BY SHIPS AND AIRCRAFT. THE RETURN OF THE DEPENDENTS TO THE SOVIET UNION COULD BE THE RESULT OF FURTHER DETERIORATION OF SOVIET-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS OR POSSIBLY A RISING CONCERN OVER THE POSSIBILITY OF AN OUTBREAK OF HOSTILITIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THE SOVIETS MAY BE USING THE EXCUSE OF RISING TENSIONS TO FURTHER REDUCE THEIR PRESENCE WITHOUT ANNOYING THE EGYPTIANS.

TOP SECRET-SENSITIVE

No Objection To Declassification in Full 2010/08/31 : LOC-HAK-479-4-14-1  
TOP SECRET-DEFENSIVE

MOSCOW REPORTEDLY HAS GIVEN DAMASCUS NINE KA-25/ HORMONE HELICOPTERS. THEY ARE TO BE STATIONED AT HUMAYMIN AIRFIELD ON THE COAST. ALTHOUGH HORMONE WAS DESIGNED PRIMARILY FOR ASW OPERATIONS, IT CAN BE CONFIGURED FOR RECONNAISSANCE, TRANSPORT, AND SEARCH-AND-RESCUE MISSIONS. THE SYRIAN HELICOPTER INVENTORY INCLUDES 22 MI-4/HOUNDS AND 36 MI-8/HIPS.

QADHAAFI WAS TO PARTICIPATE IN CEREMONIES IN EGYPT LAST WEEKEND MARKING THE ANNIVERSARY OF FORMER PRESIDENT NASSER'S DEATH AND THE FIRST MEETING OF THE JOINT CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY. HE WAS WARNED THAT CAIRO WOULD NOT TOLERATE LIBYAN ATTEMPTS TO FOMENT ANTI-EGYPTIAN FEELING AMONG STUDENTS, AND THAT HE WOULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO ADDRESS A STUDENT GROUP IN ALEXANDRIA. HE ARRIVED IN CAIRO ON 28 SEPTEMBER --- AS USUAL, UNANNOUNCED. ANGERED BY HIS COOL RECEPTION, THE LIBYAN LEADER FLEW HOME THE NEXT DAY. PRESIDENT SADAT'S PATIENCE WITH QADHAAFI'S ECCENTRICITIES IS WEARING THIN BUT HE IS PROBABLY NOT YET READY TO PUBLICLY RENOUNCE THE 1 SEPTEMBER MERGER.

LIBYA/EGYPT: ROTATION OF THE EGYPTIAN MINESWEEPER AND TWO S.O. 1-CLASS SUBMARINE CHASERS DEPLOYED TO LIBYA IS UNDER WAY. THE W-CLASS SUBMARINE BASED AT TRIPOLI ALSO LEFT FOR ALEXANDRIA LAST WEEK AND PRESUMABLY WILL BE REPLACED, ALTHOUGH NO MENTION OF THIS HAS BEEN NOTED IN EGYPTIAN NAVAL COMMUNICATIONS. THIS IS THE SECOND ROTATION OF THE NAVAL UNIT SINCE LAST MARCH.